

Application S/N 10/511478
Response to Office Action Dated 12/20/2006

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 13-14 as follows:

For the above-mentioned barrier layer, for ~~example~~ example, a layer including at least one of a polyparaxylylene layer and a metal layer can be used.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 25-33 as follows:

As mentioned above, the ultrasonic probe of the present invention includes an ultrasonic element for transmitting and receiving ultrasonic waves, a sound window enclosing the ultrasonic element and an ultrasonic wave propagation liquid charged in the sound window. In the sound window, a barrier layer capable of inhibiting the permeation of liquids and gases is formed. With such a ~~configuration~~ configuration, it is possible to suppress the permeation of the sound propagation liquids from the sound window and to suppress the reduction of the amount of liquids. As a result, the pressure in the sound window can be ~~maintained~~ maintained.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 4-5 as follows:

Next, an operation of the ~~above-mentioned~~ above-mentioned ultrasonic probe will be described.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 28-35 as follows:

Note here that in the above description, the barrier layer 3 is provided on the ~~internal~~ internal wall surface of the sound window 4. However, the barrier layer 3 may be provided on the external surface of the sound window. Alternatively, in the case of the sound window configured of a plurality of layers, the same effect can be obtained if the barrier layer 3 is provided between layers. In this case, in order to improve the adhesion between the layers constituting the window, a part of the barrier layer may be provided with a through hole.